

IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT  
FOR THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR

COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE EXIGENT )  
CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY COVID-19 )  
AND RELATED CORONAVIRUS ) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
) NO. 2020-07

---

WHEREAS, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Washington has issued an emergency order in response to the public health emergency that affects operations of trial courts in Washington State on March 4, 2020.

WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court has adopted Order Nos. 25700-B-602, 25700-B-606, 25700-B-607, 25700-B-618, 25700-B-625, and 25700-B-626 granting and extending emergency authority to this court to adopt, modify, and suspend court rules and orders, and to take further actions concerning court operations, as warranted to address the current state of emergency.

WHEREAS, the court is able to provide remote hearings via video and provide live access to the public from the court website, which protects staff, lawyers, and the public from exposure to the virus.

WHEREAS, the court has been successful in handling criminal proceedings remotely including arraignments, pretrial hearings, review hearings, guilty pleas, sentencing, and traffic mitigations and contested hearings.

WHEREAS, the court is located within Gig Harbor City Hall which is not open to the public at this time and the timeline for re-opening the government building is uncertain at this time.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Civil infraction hearings will be conducted by telephone or video conferencing to address the threat to the public health.
2. Civil infraction mitigation hearings may be converted to hearings-by-mail appearances upon timely filing of Request for Mitigation by Mail form.

3. Criminal matters will be heard by telephone or video conferencing to the extent possible. The court reserves the right to maintain or schedule in-person hearings when video or telephonic methods are not possible.
4. The court office will be closed to the public from March 16, 2020 through August 3, 2020 and will be re-evaluated at that time. Court staff will be available by telephone and via email at [court@cityofgigharbor.net](mailto:court@cityofgigharbor.net).
5. This order may be amended or withdrawn as warranted to address the ongoing public health emergency.

DATED this 8th day of July 2020.

---

Zenon P. Olbertz, Presiding Judge